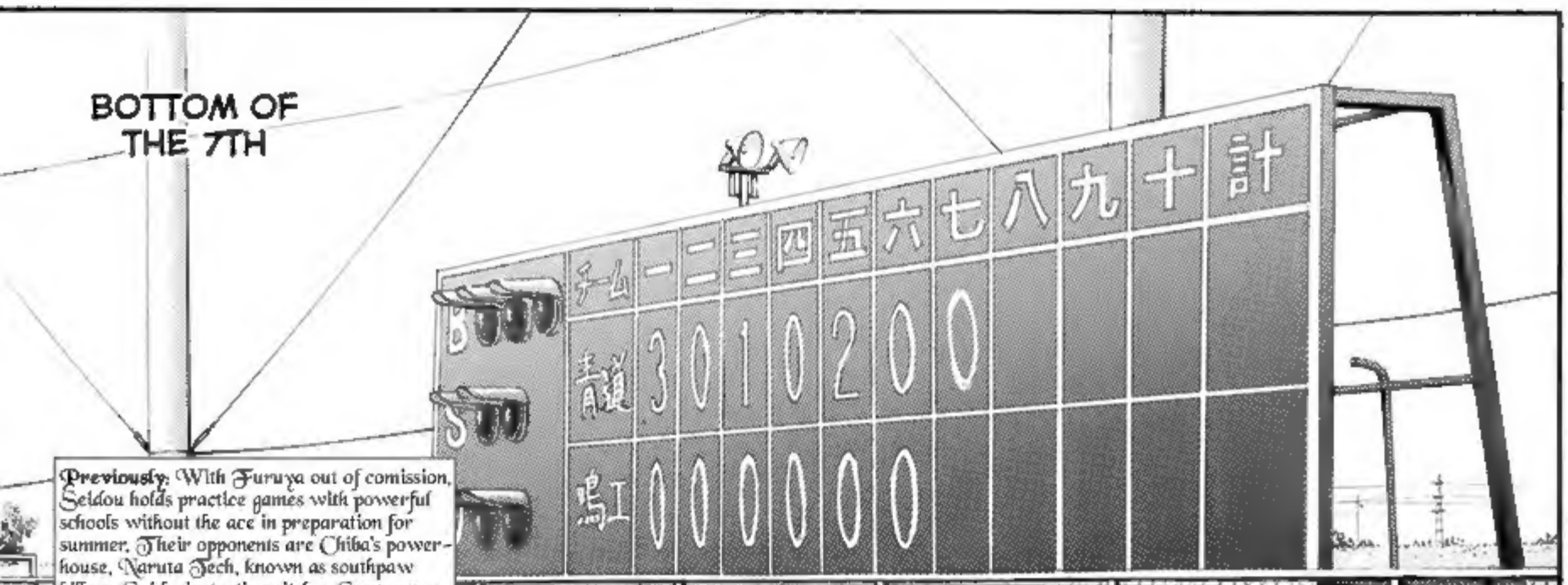
EVERYONE'S GAZES ARE FOCUSED ON HIM...
TODAY'S STAR IS HIM ALONE!

CHAPTER 85
SALUTE

寺嶋裕二 (Yuji Terajima)

ダイヤのA act II

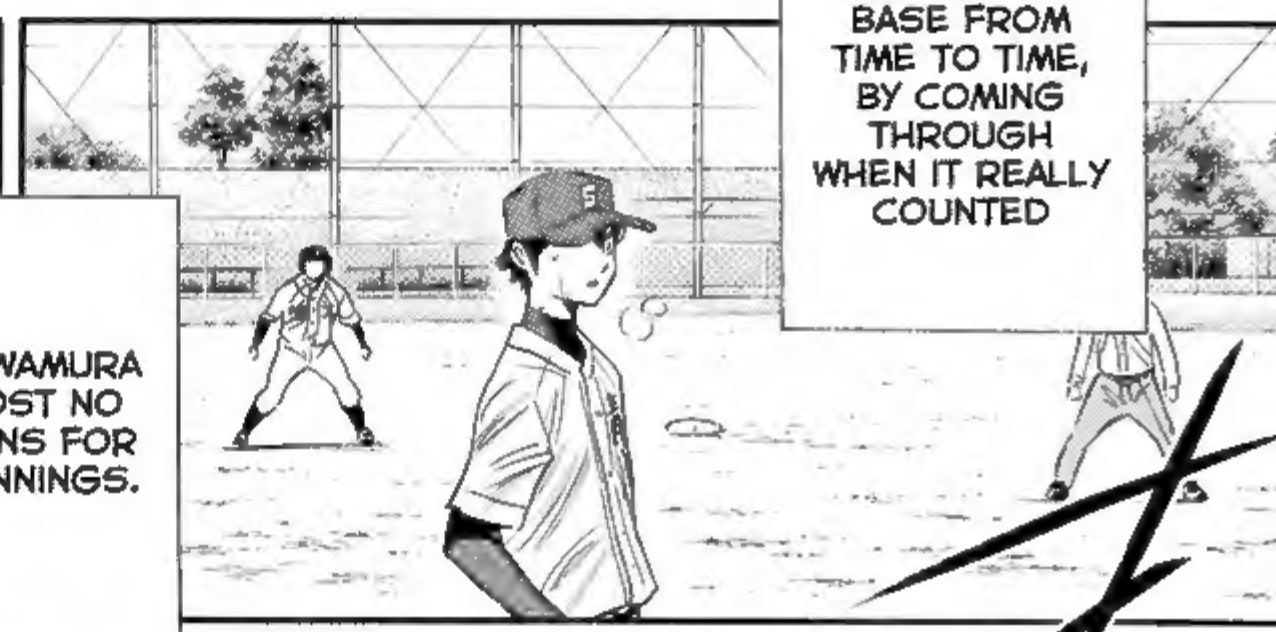
BOTTOM OF THE 7TH

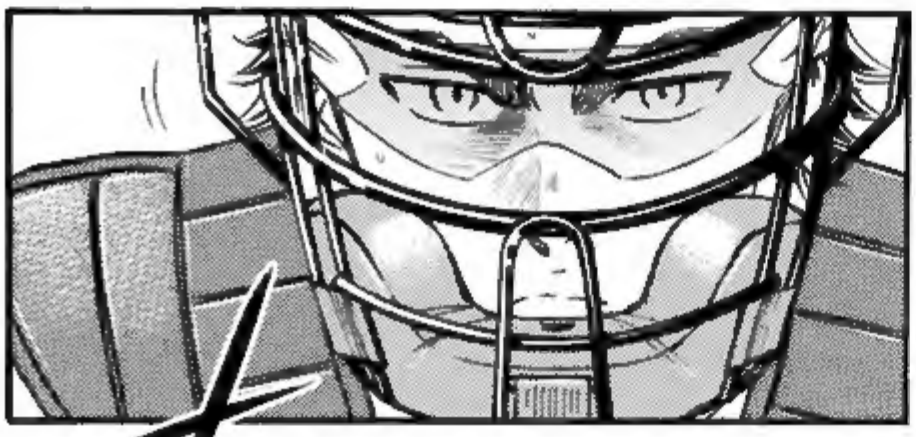


Previously: With Furuya out of comission, Seidou holds practice games with powerful schools without the ace in preparation for summer. Their opponents are Chiba's powerhouse, Naruta Tech, known as southpaw killers. Seidou's starting pitcher Sawamura doesn't let them best him and even scores RBIs as a batter, establishing his presence. Will he stay untouchable...?

ALTHOUGH PUTTING RUNNERS ON BASE FROM TIME TO TIME, BY COMING THROUGH WHEN IT REALLY COUNTED

SAWAMURA LOST NO RUNS FOR 6 INNINGS.





WITH 1 OUT AND RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD AFTER A WALK AND A HIT

THE OPPONENTS' 4TH BATTER, KOYASU, TOOK THE PLATE.

HE HIT A HIGH FLYING FASTBALL

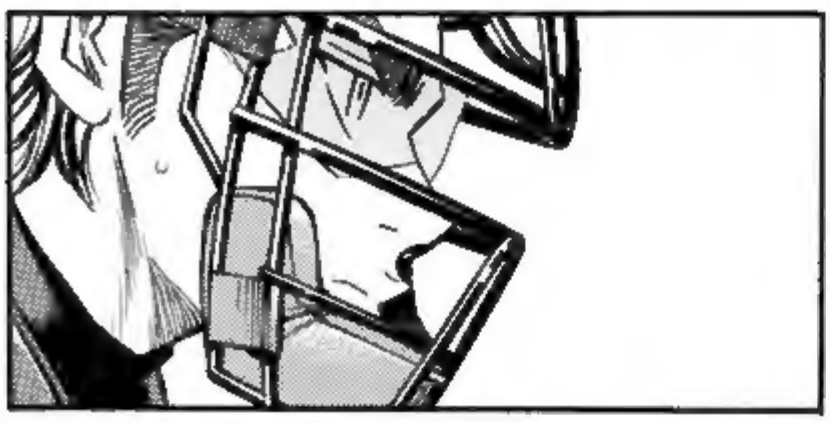
DEEP INTO RIGHT FIELD,

AND SO, WITH THE RUNNER HAVING TAGGED UP, SEIDOU CEDED A RUN.

THE SEIDOU BATTERY STARTED WITH BALLS, WORSENING THE COUN TO 2-0

WITH ANOTHER RUNNER ON THIRD,

TOKYU



TO THE BATTER WHO KEPT PERSEVER-ING...

AND FACING THE BIGGEST CRISIS IN THIS GAME YET.

...WITH THE COUNT OF 3-2,

SAWAMURA THREW AN INSIDE FASTBALL, LOADED WITH ALL OF HIS POWER.

THE TOTAL FOR HIM FOR 7 INNINGS WAS: 98 PITCHES THROWN,

6 HITS ALLOWED, 2 WALKS CEDED, 1 RUN LOST, 5 STRIKE-OUTS TAKEN.

Go cool down now.

This is it for you for today.

PISSED

ムス

SAWA-MURA!

NICE PITCH-ING!

I'VE ONLY PITCHED FOR MERE 7 INNINGS YET!

DAMN... WHY AM I STUGGLING FOR BREATH?

HAVE A DRINK!

YES, GOOD JOB, MAN.

GOOD JOB OUT THERE!

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HE WAS GOING FULL THROTTLE RIGHT FROM THE FIRST INNING.

MAYBE HE WAS A LITTLE OVER-MOTIVATED AND TRYING TOO HARD TO MAKE EVERYTHING WORK OUT JUST RIGHT TODAY...

SO IMPROVING YOUR CONTOL OVER YOUR NUMBERS IS THE NEXT ISSUE FOR US TO WORK ON.

nod

WE'VE NO PROBLEM WHEN YOU START WITH STRIKES, BUT WHEN YOUR NUMBERS START TO MISS THE ZONE, WE'RE ONLY LEFT WITH THE OPTION TO TRY AND THROW FASTBALLS FOR STRIKES.

WHICH YOU HAVE PROVEN BEYOND DOUBT TO BOTH YOUR TEAMMATES AND THE AUDIENCE TODAY.

BUT WELL, YOU CAN PITCH AT A LEVEL LIKE THIS WITH JUST YOUR FASTBALLS IN GOOD SHAPE.

!

CATCHING FOR YOU WAS THRILLING.

I GOT PULLED AFTER 7 INNINGS, AND NOW YOU'RE GOING ALL SARCASTIC ON ME ABOUT IT, HUH?!

YOU SURE LOVE COMING UP WITH SOME ELABORATE NITPICKING, I GOTTA SAY!

UGH!

WAS THAT SARCASM JUST NOW?

...

BOTTOM OF THE 8TH

HEY!

ACTUALLY, IT'S SCARY! WITH YOU, THE ABOUT FACE TURN IS PLAIN SCARY, CAP!

AS IF YOU'RE THE TYPE OF GUY TO SINCERELY PRAISE OTHERS!

I ONLY GAVE YOU SOME SINCERE PRAISE...

A SECOND PITCHER TOOK THE MOUND.

WE CAN ALSO THROW A SLIDER ON A COURSE OUTSIDE THE ZONE.

AFTER WE'VE TAKEN ENOUGH STRIKES FOR THE COUNT WITH FASTBALLS.

...YEAH

THESE GUYS DESERVE THEIR MONIKER OF SOUTHPAW KILLERS, THEY REALLY DO HAVE A LOT OF RIGHT-HANDED BATTERS WHO CAN HIT STRONG TO THE RIGHT.

IF YOUR SINKER DROPS AROUND THEIR KNEES, THEY'LL SWING.

AS A THIRD YEAR...

...AND AS A PITCHER...

AND FOR HAVING A SUMMER THAT WILL LEAVE NO REGRETS IN ITS WAKE.

...I WILL DO WHAT I CAN FOR WINNING

They sent in yet another good pitcher, huh!

KAWAKAMI FACED 7 BATTERS,

GAVE UP 1 HIT AND TOOK 3 STIKEOUTS.

WITH THE OPPONENTS' LINEUP UNABLE TO FIND ANY PITCHES TO TARGET TILL THE END,

SEIDOU HANDED A DEFEAT TO NARUTA TECHINICAL WITH THE FINAL SCORE OF 7-1.

SEIDOU	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	7
NARUTA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

W SAWAMURA - KAWAKAMI L KOBORI - OOTSUKA

WITH THAT, SEIDOU'S WINNING STREAK THAT BEGAN WITH THEIR AWAY GAMES, REACHED 7 WINS OUT OF 7 GAMES PLAYED.

ASARI (SAITAMA) - SEIDOU (W.TOKYO)

IN THE 2ND MATCH OF THE DAY...

...THE STARTING BATTERY WAS KANEDA-ONO.

THEY WERE OFF TO A GOOD START, WITH KANEDA'S FORKBALL BEING EFFECTIVE FROM THE GET-GO.

THE OPPONENTS' PITCHER ALSO STARTED OUT GOOD, HIS MAIN WEAPON BEING HIS CURVEBALL WITH A BIG DROP.

THE GAME PROGRESSED AS A PITCHING DUEL UNTIL THE 4TH.

THE FIRST YEAR YUI, WHO PLAYED RIGHT FIELDER ON THAT DAY, FOLLOWED SUIT

WAS TAKATSU, THE SHORT-STOP BATTING FIRST.

THE ONE TO START THE FIRE

YEAH!

AND SNATCHING 3 RUNS AT ONCE.

WITH THE THIRD YEARS YAMAGUCHI AND MIMURA BRINGING THE RUNNERS HOME

AND ALLOWING FOR THE SCORE TO GET TIED AT 3-3.

HOWEVER, IN THE 6TH, KANEDA CAME UNDER A PINPOINT SATURATION ASSAULT, GIVING UP HITS ONE AFTER ANOTHER

AND THEN, IN THE 7TH...

TOLJOL'S ON!! HERE HE GOES!!

...THE ONE TO TAKE THE MOUND WAS THIS PLAYER...

Get 'em!

青道

FUH

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FILL THE HOLE FURUYA'S ABSENCE LEFT ALL TOGETHER

TOUJOU.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STEP ON THE MOUND NEXT SATURDAY?

YES, SIR! I CAN PITCH!

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TAKE THE MOUND!

HE RAKED UP A GREAT NUMBER OF GROUN-DERS.

BY THROWING HIS BREAKING BALLS,

NAMELY THE CURVEBALL AND SLIDER, CONSISTENTLY LOW,

HE WORKED ON IMPROVING HIS PITCH CONTROL...

HAVING VOLUNTEERED AND SERVING AS A BATTING PRACTICE PITCHER ON A REGULAR BASIS,

...WHICH HE AMPLY DEMONSTRATED IN THAT DAY'S GAME.

AND...

...AS IF TO CELEBRATE TOUJOU'S COMEBACK AS A PITCHER...

...KANEMARU, BATTING SIXTH, HIT A 2-RUN RBI,

SHARING 104 AS THEY SHARED TIME SPENT TOGETHER.

BRINGING HIS TEAM THEIR 8TH WIN TO CONTINUE THEIR WINNING STREAK...

Yeah!

Special Thanks

Raws

Eiji

Redrawer

Hoshi no Saikuru

ダイヤのA エース

Ace of Diamond

TDX release